



STURBRIDGE

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Sturbridge is a small community located at the junction of Interstate 84, Interstate 90 and US Route 20 in south- central Massachusetts. This lively Town is well known and loved for its sense of pride and history. Many descendants of the Town's original inhabitants still reside in and provide the character of our New England community.

The town was incorporated in 1738 as a small farming community. Fiskdale Village located on the banks of the Quinebaug River on the west side of Town, saw the introduction, boom and decline of water driven mills. All but one original mill still exists, many of which have been converted into shops and homes today. Dams which provide power for the mills can still be seen along the river. Sturbridge was also the site of the Worcester South Agricultural Grounds which hosted years of New England fairs complete with annual harness racing. Situated off Route 20 on Cedar Lake, the site is now the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center.

The Town is most recognized as being the home of Old Sturbridge Village. This recreated village within our own Town depicts the look of a typical New England town's past, as a recreation of life in the early 1800's. Among Sturbridge's other charms is the Town Common which is included in a National Historic District. Homes and public buildings in this area were constructed in the late seventeenth and early eighteen hundreds and have been proudly maintained in near-to-original condition. This area is also home to The Publick House, a world famous period restaurant and inn, formerly the Elms Inn established in 1771.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

South central Massachusetts, bordered by Brookfield and East Brookfield on the north; Charlton and Southbridge on the east; Union, Connecticut, on the south; and Holland and Brimfield on the west. Sturbridge is 22 miles southwest of Worcester, 32 miles east of Springfield, 45 miles southwest of Boston, and 156 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 38.95 sq. miles

Land Area: 37.41 sq. miles

Population: 7,775

Density: 208 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(East Brimfield Lake Station)

Normal temperature in January.....21.5°F

Normal temperature in July.....70.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Southbridge, East Brookfield, Wales, Warren

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 347-2500

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1738

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	4,428		
Democrats	1,363	30.8	%
Republicans	683	15.4	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,382	53.8	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Sturbridge town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	7,837	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	7,837	100.0
Male.....	3,857	49.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	102	1.3
Female.....	3,980	50.8	Mexican.....	8	0.1
Under 5 years.....	468	6.0	Puerto Rican.....	61	0.8
5 to 9 years.....	554	7.1	Cuban.....	2	-
10 to 14 years.....	626	8.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	31	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	497	6.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	7,735	98.7
20 to 24 years.....	264	3.4	White alone.....	7,544	96.3
25 to 34 years.....	953	12.2	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,355	17.3	Total population.....	7,837	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,248	15.9	In households.....	7,824	99.8
55 to 59 years.....	451	5.8	Householder.....	3,066	39.1
60 to 64 years.....	369	4.7	Spouse.....	1,860	23.7
65 to 74 years.....	530	6.8	Child.....	2,413	30.8
75 to 84 years.....	419	5.3	Own child under 18 years.....	1,903	24.3
85 years and over.....	103	1.3	Other relatives.....	215	2.7
Median age (years).....	39.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	60	0.8
18 years and over.....	5,841	74.5	Nonrelatives.....	270	3.4
Male.....	2,825	36.0	Unmarried partner.....	150	1.9
Female.....	3,016	38.5	In group quarters.....	13	0.2
21 years and over.....	5,629	71.8	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	1,252	16.0	Noninstitutionalized population.....	13	0.2
65 years and over.....	1,052	13.4	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	448	5.7	Total households.....	3,066	100.0
Female.....	604	7.7	Family households (families).....	2,213	72.2
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,048	34.2
One race.....	7,782	99.3	Married-couple family.....	1,860	60.7
White.....	7,613	97.1	With own children under 18 years.....	846	27.6
Black or African American.....	28	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	268	8.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	21	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	157	5.1
Asian.....	89	1.1	Nonfamily households.....	853	27.8
Asian Indian.....	50	0.6	Householder living alone.....	718	23.4
Chinese.....	12	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	299	9.8
Filipino.....	4	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,102	35.9
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	759	24.8
Korean.....	2	-	Average household size.....	2.55	(X)
Vietnamese.....	1	-	Average family size.....	3.03	(X)
Other Asian ¹	20	0.3	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	7	0.1	Total housing units.....	3,335	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	6	0.1	Occupied housing units.....	3,066	91.9
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	269	8.1
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	1	-	occasional use.....	194	5.8
Some other race.....	24	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.9	(X)
Two or more races.....	55	0.7	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.5	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	3,066	100.0
White.....	7,657	97.7	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,380	77.6
Black or African American.....	49	0.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	686	22.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	39	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.71	(X)
Asian.....	102	1.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.99	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	10	0.1			
Some other race.....	38	0.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 links to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 20, Interstate Routes 90 (the Massachusetts Turnpike) and 84, and State Routes 131 and 148.

Rail

There is no passenger or freight rail service in Sturbridge, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts and Connecticut is easily accessible.

Bus

Sturbridge is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) but does not receive services. Peter Pan Bus Lines offers a daily excursion to Old Sturbridge Village from New York City and Boston, which stops in Sturbridge and Worcester.

Other

Southbridge Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in nearby Southbridge, has a 3,500'x 75' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Old Sturbridge Village

1 Old Sturbridge Village Road

(508) 347-3362

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.